Murmagoa Port in Goa

1875. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Murmagoa Port in Goa which had made progress for several years has been neglected and thereby the ship operation is slow; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to develop the Port by removing the difficulties encountered by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) It is incorrect to say that Mormugao Port has been neglected. Investments are being made every year for development of the Port. During the 7th Five Year Plan an outlay of Rs. 25.30 crores has been provided out of which the outlay for new schemes is Rs. 30.73 crores. This includes provision of Tugs, Additional. Barge Unloading Jetty, Mobile cranes etc.

Price control order for the drugs under Category I

1876. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 1974 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Measures 1986 which had the approval of the Cabinet specifically states that drugs required for National Health Programme will be covered under category I of Drugs Price Control Order;

(b) if so, whether the approval had been obtained from Cabinet to exclude certain National Health Programme's drugs under category I

(c) if so, since when the approval was obtained; and

(d) if not, under what authority the programmes were excluded and drugs not recommended?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (d) Cabinet has approved the Measures or Rationalisation Quality Control and Growth of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry in India. According to that, category I of the Drug Prices Control Order will consist of drugs required for National Health Programmes. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has identified 11 National Health Programmes out of which drugs required for 8 National Health Programmes were recommended for inclusion in category I.

Powerful explosives found on railway track near Bagladams

1877. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in the "Telegraph" dated 28th March, 1988 wherein it has been stated that two steel boxes containing powerful explosives discovered on railway track near Bagladams Railway Station near Hoshangabad;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has since been made;

(c) whether any arrest has been made; and

(d) what preventive measures taken to avoid such recurrence by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

On 25.3.88, two steel boxes containing explosives were recovered by the side of railway track in Bagratawa tunnel, by Civil Police, Babai, Distt: Hoshangabad and on 31.3.88, one more steel box containing explosives with similar markings was recovered between Guramkhedi and Sohagpur Stations by Civil Police, Sohagpur.

(b) to (d) The Civil Police of Babai and Sohagpur have registered two cases in this regard. All the three boxes have been restored to the Air Force authorities, to whom these boxes belonged. Further action will be taken on receipt of the Police Report.

Recommendation of the Justice Lentin report on adulteration in drugs

1878. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to remarks made in Justice Lentin report (Bombay, J.J. Hospital Enquiry) regarding adulteration in drug being supplied to Hospitals and marketed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) The Justice Lentin Commission Report has recently been received and is being examined by the Government of India.

Test of malaria vaccine

1879. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 18th April, 1988 wherein it has been stated that successful test of malaria vaccine has been conducted for the first time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it will be made available for the patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A synthetic vaccine against the asexual blood stage of malaria parasite plasmodium falciparum was produced by a group of scientists working at two laboratories in Colombia, South America. These scientists synthesized peptides (SPF 150K and SPF 100K) which induced partial complete protection in Aotus monkeys on experimental basis. Thus based on the protection provided to monkeys, clinical trials were carried out on 13 volnteers previously. Results of immunization of these volunteers reveal some degree of protection when challenged with P. falciparum. However, whenever the volunteers showed the clinical symptoms of malaria, they had to be given antimalarials to prevent serious episode of malaria attack or to provide clinical relief. The authors have concluded that the promising results have been obtained by vaccination. The synthetic protein used was the first synthetic vaccine for human use against the asexual blood stages of P. falciparum malaria. This research has opened up the hope for the development of a successful vaccine in due course.